

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Pearl et al : Date: July 25, 2002
Serial Number: 09/882,724 : Group Art Unit: 3762
Attorney Docket Number: P01046601 : Examiner: Hank Johnson
Filed: June 15, 2001 : Applicant's Attorney:
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Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD : 4800 N. Federal Hwy, Suite A-207
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GROUP 3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)

The Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The attached form PTO/SB/08A provides a listing of the following patents:

Reference 1 on page 1, U.S. patent 6,187,029 to Shapiro et al., discloses a therapeutic photo treatment device which uses an array of infrared lamps to treat an extended area of surface tissue with both heat and light. The device is handheld. Areas of interest are the abstract; figure 3; column 1, lines 5 – 8 and lines 12 – 15; column 2, lines 65 – 67; column 3, lines 1 – 2.

Reference 2 on page 1, U.S. patent 6,129,748 to Kamei, discloses a device which projects pulsed light onto a patient to increase immunity. The device uses LEDs as the light source, but other light sources may be used. Areas of interest are the abstract; column 5, lines 20 – 21; and column 11, lines 37 – 40.

Reference 3 on page 1, U.S. patent 6,022,345 to Miller et al., discloses a laser treatment device for therapeutic treatment of the skin in hair replacement procedures. The laser is used to prepare the skin prior to implementation of hair and grafts. Areas of interest are the abstract; and column 2, lines 49 – 51.

Reference 4 on page 1, U.S. patent 5,814,078 to Zhou et al., discloses a method of stimulating growth in living tissue by exposure to high frequency energy. One application of the Zhou invention is in the treatment of baldness and alopecia. Areas of interest are the abstract; column 16, lines 14 – 17; and column 23, line 64 through column 24, line 25.

Reference 5 on page 1, U.S. patent 5,616,140 to Prescott, discloses a therapeutic laser treatment device that is worn by a patient and applies treatment to a specific location on the patient's body. Areas of interest are the abstract; and column 1, lines 6 – 8.

Reference 6 on page 1, U.S. patent 5,569,929 to Mizutani et al., discloses a laser device that splits a laser beam into multiple beams and then directs the separate beams to an object. The invention disclosed in this patent is directed to a measurement device which uses multiple laser beams to accomplish the measurement. Areas of interest are the abstract; and column 2, lines 7 – 8.

Reference 7 on page 1, U.S. patent 5,306,143 to Levy, discloses a handheld toothbrush which has an internal laser built into the handle that applies laser light to an individual's mouth and gums while the individual is brushing his/her teeth. The laser in the handle projects a laser beam perpendicular to the bristles in the toothbrush. A series of semi-transparent mirrors arranged at 45 degree angles to the laser beam split the beam into multiple beams which are redirected in a 90 degree angle to the original beam. These multiple beams are then projected out of the brush head along planes substantially parallel to the brush bristles. Areas of interest are the abstract; figures 1 and 3; column 2, lines 52 – 56; column 3, lines 8 – 15; column 4, lines 8 – 10; and claim 1.

Reference 8 on page 1, U.S. patent 5,303,722 to Godfrey et al., discloses a handheld hair bleaching brush which has an internal laser built into the handle that applies laser light to an individual's scalp while the individual is brushing his/her hair. The laser in the handle projects a laser beam perpendicular to the brush bristles. A series of reflectors arranged at 45 degree angles to the laser beam split the beam into multiple beams which are redirected in a 90 degree angle to the original beam. These multiple beams are then projected out of the brush head along planes substantially parallel to the brushes and are aimed at the individual's hair. Areas of interest are the abstract; figure 3; column 1, lines 66 – 68; column 2, lines 7 – 10; column 4, lines 33 – 38; column 6, lines 64 – 68; column 7, lines 1 – 18 and lines 34 – 39; column 8, lines 28 – 38 and lines 45 – 47; and claims 1 and 9.

Reference 9 on page 1, U.S. patent 5,103,073 to Danilov et al., discloses a laser treatment device that splits a laser beam into multiple laser beams and then directs them to a work surface. The device is used for manufacturing equipment such as integrated circuits. Areas of interest are the figures as they relate to laser beam splitting.

Reference 10 on page 1, U.S. patent 4,653,495 to Nanaumi, discloses a handheld medical laser treatment device which uses a plurality of parallel fiberoptic lines to project multiple laser beams onto a patient. The device is used by plastic surgeons and dermatologists to remove unwanted growths by heating them. The device is not useful for stimulating hair growth because it operates at power levels which are too high. Areas of interest are the abstract; figure 7 – 9; and column 1, lines 8 – 9 and lines 37 – 40.

Reference 11 on page 1, U.S. patent 2,397,757 to Schwedersky, discloses a handheld comb device which has an internal ultraviolet lamp to apply UV light to an individual's scalp while the individual is combing his/her hair. The device includes brush bristles and in addition, a comb structure to our hair such that the UV light as easy access to the scalp to promote blood flow, and thereby to promote hair growth. Areas of interest are the figures; column 1, lines 2 – 9 and lines 16 – 28; column 3, lines 23 – 39; and column 4, lines 1 – 13.

Reference 12 on page 1, German patent DE 3336939 to Saalman, discloses a handheld ultraviolet lamp which includes a comb structure which parts the hair of an individual while the ultraviolet light is applied to the individual's scalp. This device uses a dual array tooth structure which parts the hair before and after the light. The device is used for therapeutic treatment of an individual's scalp. Areas of interest are the abstract and the figures.

Reference 13 on page 1, German patent DE 3511281 to Saalman, discloses a handheld ultraviolet lamp which includes a comb structure which parts the hair of an individual while the ultraviolet light is applied to the individual's scalp. This device uses a single array tooth structure. The device is used for therapeutic treatment of an individual's scalp.

Reference 14 on page 1, German patent G 8329332.9 to Saalman, discloses a handheld ultraviolet lamp which includes a comb structure which parts the hair of an individual while the ultraviolet light is applied to the individual's scalp. This device uses a dual array tooth structure. The device is used for therapeutic treatment of an individual's scalp.

Reference 15 on page 1, EPO patent 0139278 B1 to Saalman, discloses a handheld ultraviolet lamp which includes a comb structure which parts the hair of an individual while the ultraviolet light is applied to the individual's scalp. This device uses a dual array tooth structure. The device is used for therapeutic treatment of an individual's scalp.

Reference 16 on page 1, EPO patent 0139278 A1 to Saalman, discloses a handheld ultraviolet lamp which includes a comb structure which parts the hair of an individual while the ultraviolet light is applied to the individual's scalp. This device uses a dual array tooth structure. The device is used for therapeutic treatment of an individual's scalp.

Reference 17 on page 1, French patent 2,518,412 to Laguerre, discloses a handheld infrared lamp which is used for therapeutic treatment of an individual's skin.

This disclosure should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other relative information exists. A copy of each reference listed above is enclosed. No inference should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation of the prior art, that any or all of the listed references are pertinent to the presently claimed invention, or that apparatus or systems disclosed in the references are analogous or equivalent to the subject invention. The Examiner is requested to perform an independent assessment of the relevance or materiality of each listed reference.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: _____
John C. Smith, Reg. No. 33,284

JCS/jgs